THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There could be some loss of market share of VSNL initially when the international communication service is opened to other operators.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Assam

2601. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade branch Post Offices in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is a target of opening of 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam Circle in the year 2001-2002 which includes Departmental Sub Post Offices to be opened through upgradation also. There is a proposal to upgrade Gerukamukh branch Post Office in Dhemaji District to Sub Post Office, subject to availability of resources.

Clearance of telephone waiting list in Rajasthan

2602. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answers to Unstarred Questions 1738 and 1622 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August and 5th December, 2000 respectively, and state :

(a) whether the two applicants wait-listed for new telephone connections one each in village Norangpur and Noranpura Bas in Tehsil Mahwa, Dausa District of Rajasthan are still waiting for connections and no action has been taken by the authorities in this regard;

(b) whether despite letters by Members of Parliament to give telephone connections from their own quota no action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take against inaction on part of appropriate authorities and for giving telephone connections at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two applicants are in waiting list. Action is being taken to provide the new telephone connections. Cable has been received at the site and the cable laying work is under progress. These two new telephone connections will be provided by March, 2002.

Call phone operation by BSNL

2603. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL is planning to enter the call phone operations across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are bureaucratic hurdles from within the Department; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to overcome these hurdles ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir. there is no plan to start any service by the name of 'Call Phone Operations'.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Pending Telephone Connections in UP

2604. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the pending telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the telecom circles in UP which are not able to meet the targets;

(c) the circles in UP which are complaints prone; and

(d) the action taken to rectify the situation?